



The Sh̓n̓ay̓ckstx (Sinixt)
Confederacy

P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, WA 99155

The Confederated Tribes of
the Colville Reservation

June 17, 2024

Tracey Janes
Project Assessment Director
Environmental Assessment Office
Tracey.Janes@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Janes:

Re: 410314 - Record Ridge Industrial Mine Project-EAO Request for Information

I am the Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) and the Sinixt (Arrow Lakes) Confederacy. I write further to my letter of May 29, 2024, and your follow up meeting with Cody Desautel, James Baxter and Herb Alex on June 6, 2024.

As I outlined in my May 29 letter, this project falls squarely within Sinixt traditional territory as confirmed by the Province's own ethnohistorical report, linked here for ease of reference: https://sinixt.com/wp-content/uploads/Sinixt-Ethnohistorical-Report-3P_2023_10_23_sm.pdf Despite recent representations from other First Nations, including the Osoyoos Indian Band, we confirm that we are the primary Nation impacted by this project, and expect to be treated by the EAO as the lead Nation in any review process going forward.

I explained in my previous letter that we have not received provincial capacity funding that would enable us to do a detailed review of this project, including potential impacts to the environment and our constitutionally protected rights. You have advised that the EAO is not able to provide capacity funding unless and until a formal environmental assessment is conducted.

That leaves us in a position where we must insist that a formal environmental assessment be undertaken, given the preliminary concerns we have about impacts of the project which could affect our section 35 rights, including impacts on heritage resources, cultural plants, wildlife and water quality. This includes concerns about potential transboundary impacts that could impact restoration work for salmon and other freshwater fish species. We reiterate that we will require full capacity funding to participate in the formal assessment process.

James Baxter will remain the primary contact on this matter. He can be reached by telephone at 509-419-9804 or via email at james.baxter.fnw@colvilletribes.com

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

BE32CD65EA774EB... Erickson, Chairman
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Sinixt Confederacy

Cc: Cody Desautel, Rebecca Hunt, James Baxter
Wayne Giles